

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION**

Early Intervention Committee

LOCATION

**Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference**

Meeting Date

**Wednesday, August 14, 2013
10:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

Karli Lopez - Chair
Mandy Cleveland
Dean Gates
Diana Marsh

Community Members:

Wendy Barrett
Mary Elam
Melora Gaber
Janel Keplinger
Beth Kaplan

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant,
Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Announcements and Good News

Christie Reinhardt announced the news that Erin Kinavey left her position at EI/ILP and has taken a position at UAA. The committee wished her success and will look to recruiting her to return to the committee as the UAA representative.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Past Minutes

Approval of the Agenda

There was not a quorum gathered at this time and the committee continued without approval of the agenda.

Approval of Minutes – 6/11/13

Diana Marsh **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the June 11th, 2013 meeting. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report at this meeting.

Reports

Chair's Report

Karli Lopez introduced herself as the new chair of the Early Intervention Committee. She has been on the committee for approximately one year. She is the parent of a 2-year-old son who has Down's syndrome and a 6-month-old daughter. She stated that one of her areas of interest is to improve parent involvement, getting more parents to the table and getting that voice heard. She sees room for improvement in getting parent's feedback and getting parents involved and engaged in the process and has some ideas of how to move in that direction.

Partner Reports

OCS/ILP

There was no report available from OCS/ILP.

AILPA

There was no report available from AILPA.

EED

There was no report available from EED.

EHDI

Beth Kaplan is scheduled to do a presentation on the overview of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention later in the meeting.

Old Business

Karli Lopez and Christie Reinhardt reported on their recent trip to the OSEP Conference in Washington, D.C. Christie reported that the first day was focused on Part C and the role of the interagency coordinating councils, of which the Governor's Council Early Intervention Committee is one. She stated that the focus of the OSEP Conference was primarily on early intervention. There was a lot of talk about the alignment of the President's message of preschool for all 4 year olds aligning with the mission and wishes of the Department of Education and Part C's idea of investing in our youngest for better outcomes. She attended a session that fit with one of the committee goals related to increasing populations served by increasing billing, and came away with some resource materials that she will share when the committee begins to look at Medicaid or insurance guidelines.

Karli Lopez stated that generally what she took away from the conference, given the focus of the breakout sessions, was that the issues that Alaska is looking at are the same issues every state is looking at. There was a lot of interest in sessions related to parental involvement and engagement and how to facilitate that. She reported that she attended a session on instructing parents about their rights and how different states are

approaching that issue.

Karli Lopez stated that she received an e-mail from an early intervention program out of the state of Washington regarding a form for parents that instructed them to talk with their insurance providers, and it provided them with a list of questions to ask to find out how their insurance will cover early intervention services and see what benefits are available, and basically how to utilize their insurance.

New Business

Beth Kaplan was the guest speaker at the meeting and presented an overview of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program. She guided the committee members through a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the process of screenings, referrals, and intervention programs. Some of the highlighted data was as follows:

- EDHI is housed in the State of Alaska, Division of Public Health, Section of Women's, Children's, and Family Health
- In 2000, early detection and screening reporting was voluntary and was done by paper reporting.
- By January of 2008, screenings were mandated and reporting was done in a live database.
- Screenings are currently taking place in 20 birthing hospitals, 3 public health centers, and 4 midwifery centers.
- In 2011, 97 percent of all Alaskan newborns were screened; 99 percent of newborns in hospitals were screened.
- The screening rate for out-of-hospital births was 60 percent in 2011, as compared to 38 percent in 2010.
- Of 11,342 Alaska births in 2011, the incidence of diagnosed hearing loss was 1 to 3 per 1,000 diagnosed through newborn hearing screening.

Beth Kaplan highlighted that the parent involvement piece included a partnership with Stone Soup Group, who provided resources and parent-to-parent supports. Other resources that are available are two brochures, one called *Communicate with your Child* and one called *Decision Guide to Communication Choices*, both of which are available online.

Beth Kaplan encouraged committee members to contact her with any questions they may have regarding the screening program.

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

Christie Reinhardt announced that she will be attending the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development Special Education Directors Training at the Embassy Suites in Anchorage September 17th & 18th, 2013.

Christie Reinhardt announced that she will be attending the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development State Board of Education Meeting in Nome September 24th & 25th, 2013.

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Early Intervention Committee is scheduled for September 11, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Good of the Order and Adjournment

Christie Reinhardt reported that the Department of Education has opened a job posting for a special education program manager.

Karli Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.